

May 5, 1967

Dr. James F. Crow
Laboratory of Genetics
Genetics Building
Madison, Wisconsin 53706

Dear Jim:

For some time I have been contemplating what I am about to write about, and the fact that I will be in Madison to receive an honorary degree seems to make it very timely to go ahead.

It would please me very much to be able to present the gold medal of my Nobel Prize award to the University of Wisconsin, as a remembrance of the opportunity that the University gave me during my years there to continue the research on which the award was based. I also have in mind making some acknowledgment of my collaboration with Esther during that time, provided I can phrase it in a way that doesn't cut both sides.

The one thing that I would like to ask of the University is that it obtain an appraisal of the "market value" of the medal, which would be of obvious utility for income tax purposes. I believe this would be a very small thing to ask of the University and it would allow a more objective evaluation than I could readily secure for myself.

If possible, I would like to ship the medal to you before my departure for a trip to Italy on May 15, so that the medal can already be in your hands upon my arrival in Madison. I will be visiting Luca Cavalli. I hope to arrive in Madison, according to present plan, on Saturday night or Sunday, and will send you more detail of it later. In any case, I would appreciate very much if you could get an acknowledgment that the gift would be acceptable on the terms that I suggest. If there are specific qualifications that I should put in my statement concerning the custody of the medal within the University, please let me know about it.

All the best.

Sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg
Professor of Genetics